

## **IN JOINT CONVENTION**

The hour having arrived, set by House Joint Resolution No. 4 Relative to Joint Convention, Inauguration of the Honorable Ned McWherter.

The Joint Convention was called to order by Mr. Speaker Wilder, President of the Joint Convention.

On motion of Senator Kyle, the roll call of the Senate was dispensed with.

On motion of Representative Naifeh, the roll call of the House was dispensed with.

Thereupon, the Clerk of the Senate read House Joint Resolution No. 4 authorizing the Joint Convention.

Mr. President Wilder appointed a Select Committee composed of Senators Atchley, Chairman; Albright, Dunavant, Patten, Person; and Representatives Chiles, Scruggs, Swann, Montgomery and Webb to escort Governor Lamar Alexander to the Speaker's podium.

Mr. President Wilder appointed a Select Committee composed of Senators Moore, Hamilton, Rochelle, Ford and O'Brien; and Representatives Naifeh, Herron, Tanner, Jared and Starnes as the committee to escort Governor Elect Ned McWherter to the Speaker's podium.

Representative Naifeh will serve as Chairman of this committee.

The invocation was given by Dr. Claude Gardner, President of Freed-Hardeman College, Henderson, Tennessee.

The National Anthem was sung by Mr. George Bitzis of Knoxville, Tennessee, accompanied by the University of Tennessee "Pride of Southland Band" under the direction of Dr. J. Julian.

Governor Alexander was recognized for remarks.

## **GOVERNOR'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS**

Governor Wilder, Speaker Murray, members of the General Assembly, Governor Alexander, members of the Supreme Court, Constitutional

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Officers, members of the Congressional Delegation and fellow Tennesseans:

There is no amount of gratitude that can be adequate for the honor you have given me.

Permit me to begin with a special word to two people.

First, to my mother. I am here today because of you. You taught me right from wrong. In the good times and in the hard times, you are always there. For everything, I thank you from the heart.

To Governor Alexander. For eight years you worked to move this state in the right direction. For all you have done for Tennessee you have my respect, my appreciation and my friendship.

Today is a special day for Tennesseans. It is a day to renew our hope. It is a day to dedicate ourselves to what Tennessee can do and to what Tennessee can be. We stand here on a plaza dedicated to those Tennesseans who died for what we believe. It is appropriate today that we pause to remember who we are, where we came from and what we have been taught.

That the son of a sharecropper could stand here today is not a personal story. It is the story of all of us.

When I was a child, the majority of Tennesseans were struggling just to survive. A half-century later our sons and daughters are astronauts, ambassadors and winners of the Nobel Prize. Throughout the world, Tennessee's voice is heard among the leaders of business and government.

The success we have enjoyed in Tennessee is a source of pride. But it must be much more. As we approach our third century, our success must serve as a challenge to finish the task left undone.

During the past year, I listened to the hopes and frustrations of thousands of Tennesseans. From the rural communities to the neighborhoods of our great urban centers, one message came back again and again. Tennesseans feel good about themselves. They do think our state is moving in the right direction.

But Tennesseans also see enormous changes taking place in our society. In their eyes and in their handshakes, you can sense the concern that not all of Tennessee is sharing in our prosperity. In one town after another, communities have been shaken by the closing of industries that will never reopen. They are worried by the sight of family farms being sold and the large numbers of people who cannot find work.

If there is one challenge to confront in the close of the century, it will be to see that no area of Tennessee -- urban or rural -- is left on its own because of economic forces beyond its control. No family that favored its

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strong children or failed to help a child in trouble would be worthy of the name. No state that chooses to ignore its troubled regions and people while watching others thrive can call itself justified.

My message to the people of Tennessee will be that we are all family. No group or region will be favored. And none will be forgotten.

In 95 counties, I made a simple pledge to the citizens of this state. I promised to be honest and to be fair. And I promised to offer the people of Tennessee a government as hard-working and realistic as they are.

Most Tennesseans believe they have all the government they want and probably more than they need. I agree.

But let us not forget that for two centuries we have been a people of compassion. A state as blessed as ours can provide adequate, reasonable and affordable health care. We are capable of being a society in which families can live in decent housing. It is not beyond our reach to have an educational system that enables each young man and woman to go as far as they can on their own. And it is within our vision to live in a land where the water is clean and the environment is a sacred trust for our children.

The challenges before us are enormous. They will not be solved with good intentions. And they will not be solved with "government as usual."

Our future demands that we bring a new generation of leadership to state government. It demands young men and women who are not afraid to question old notions, who are not afraid to try new ideas just because they might fail.

But our future in Tennessee also demands that we look not upon government as the answer to all our problems. Despite all the parades and all the marble halls, it is not the government that makes this state what it is. Government cannot eliminate poverty. It cannot provide the community pride that gives us quality schools and safe neighborhoods. And government certainly cannot legislate goodness.

Government can inspire and government can provide us with vision. But there is one thing we must teach our children well. In business, in the classroom or on the athletic field, our greatness will always lie in the spirit and energy that make us Tennesseans.

In a few moments you will give me a great responsibility. To stay close to you. To be worthy of you. To reflect what you are. To be one of you.

I hope when my time as governor has ended, people might remember this about our administration.

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That we were wise enough to address our problems without spending ourselves into bankruptcy.

That we were strong enough to accommodate order with justice.

And brave enough to bring opportunity and hope to those who had neither.

My predecessors have laid the foundation for a Tennessee beyond the imagination of those who stood here only a generation ago. After more than a century of war, struggle and sacrifice, the sun is once again rising and shining on Tennessee. From the mountains in the east to the banks of the river in the west, the future is ours for the taking.

As I take this solemn pledge, I say to every Tennessean: Our day is here. Our time is now. Our best is yet to come!

### **OATH OF OFFICE**

The Honorable Ray L. Brock, Jr., Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, administered the Oath of Office to Governor Ned McWherter, as prescribed by law.

Governor Ned McWherter and Chief Justice Ray L. Brock, Jr. signed the Oath of Office.

Thereupon, Mr. President Wilder declared that the Honorable Ned McWherter was duly, legally and constitutionally inaugurated the Governor of the State of Tennessee for the ensuing four years.

The Tennessee National Guard gave the Governor's Salute.

The benediction was given by Reverend Jimmy Terry, Pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church of Clarksville, Tennessee.

A member of the Tennessee National Guard served Governor McWherter vanilla wafers and coffee.

Mr. President Wilder relinquished the gavel to Mr. Speaker Murray as President of the Joint Convention.

The purpose for which the Joint Convention was assembled having been accomplished, Mr. President Murray declared the Joint Convention dissolved.